Abolition of Contract System in FCI

1579. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Govemment have decided to abolish contract system in the Food Corporation of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that a court has given a decision to revert to Contract System in FCI depots where the handling workers were departmentalised, as per notification as reported in Economic Times of 14th June, 1993: and

(c) if so, by when the Contract System is likely to be abolished and the handling workers also to be departmentalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) It has been the constant policy of the Government to replace Private Contract Labour System by Labour Cooperative Society formed by the Labourers working in the depots. Keeping this in view, it was announced on 29th March, 1993 in the FCI Workers' Union Convention held at Chandigarh that Contract System would be abolished in FCI depots in punjab.

(b) No, Sir. There is no decision/order of any Court regarding reversion to Contract System in FCI. The news report in Economic Times of 14-6-1993 has apparently brought out misconception of the Labourers about the announcement and suggested that the contract system is clearly a better option for the FCI.

(c) abolition of Contract System need not necessarilly be departmentalisation of workers. It has been the policyof the Government to bring the handling labourers under the fold of Labour Cooperative Society System formed by the labourers themselves to eliminate the middleman between the workers and the Food Corporation of India. In Order to encourage the workers to form a Cooperative Society, several concession are extended to them as compared to the private contractors.

Closure of Sugar Mills in Bihar

1580. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of sugar mills have been closed down in Bihar rendering 8 thousands labourers unemployed:

(b) if so. whether Government have considered the desirability of taking over the closed sugar mills in public interest; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) :(a) Three sugar mills viz. New Sevan. Bihta and Guraru of the Bihar State Sugar Corporation have not crushed cane during the last two sugar seasons (October-September). Two other sugar mills, namely Pachrukhi and Dalmianagar are chronically closed since long.

(b) and (c) Three mills belong to the Bihar State Sugar Corporation Ltd. and it is upto the State Government to take remedial steps to restart them. The other two are chronically closed since a long time and it may be difficult to revive them at this stage.

Crushing Capacities of Sugar Mills

1581. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what is the per capita availability of sugar in India and what is the average per capita consumption of Sugar in the advanced countries of the world;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 2.5 million tonnes of sugarcane are being burnt each year due to inadequate crushing capacity in the sugar mills, as indicated by a study conducted by the Centre of advanced Development Research, Lucknow,

(c) what was the production of the sugarcane in India during 1992-93 and how much of it was crushed by sugar mills to produce crystal sugar and how much for making Khandsari and gur;

(d) what is the present crushing capacity of sugar mills in India; and

(e) what steps are being contemplated by Government to increase the crushing capacity per annum for the next ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The percapita availability of sugar in

India for the sugar year 1991-92 (October-September) was about 12.9 Kg. The per capita average consumption of sugar for the year 1991 in the advanced countries of North America and Europe was 32.5 Kg. Raw Value and 38.0 Kg. Raw Value respectively. (1 Kg. of white sugar=1.8 Kg. Raw Value).

(b) It is not a fact that about 2.5 million tonnes of sugarcane are being burnt each year due to inadequate crushing capacity in the sugar mills.

(c) The production of sugarcane in India during 1992-93 season is estimated to be about 239020 lakh tonnes and the sugarcane crushed by sugar mills during the current season 1992-v3 is estimated at 1085.20 lakh tonnes.

About 38 to 40% of the sugarcane is utilised by the Gur and Khandsari sectors. Since gur and khandsari are manufactured in the unorganised sector, it is not possible to assess the exact sugarcane crushed by them.

(d) The present installed capacity of sugar mills in India is 107.62 lakh tonnes.

(e) The present licensed capacity of sugar industry is 175.79 lakh tonnes. The target of licensed capacity to be achieved by the end of the 8th Five Year Plan period i.e. 1996-97, is 198.67 lakh tonnes.

In order to increase the crushing capacity. Government has initiated the following measures:

(i) Processing of pending applications for grant of letters of intent/industrial licences for establishment of new sugar factories/expansion projects has been taken up on priority to achieve the aforesaid target of licensed capacity.

(it) The procedure for grant of letters of intent for expansion projects has been liberalised.

(iii) A revised Incentive Scheme has been announced for new sugar units/expansion projects in order to enable them to repay the term loans taken from the financial institutions.

(iv) The molasses produced by sugar factories has been decontrolled which would improve the economic viabilily of the sugar factories thereby enabling the existing units to carry out expansion and also induce entrepreneurs to set up ' new factories.

(v) Financial assistance at a concessional rate of interest is provided from the Sugar Development Fund for modernisation/rehabilitation/expansion of the existing units.

Government's Policy Towards Physical Education

1582. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that physical education has received scant attention from Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that various Committee appointed by Government from time to time have excluded physical education from their reports:

(c) if so. the reasons therefor:

(d) whether Government propose to revise its policy in regard to physical education: and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) and (e) National Policy on Education (1986) provides making physical education an integral part of the learning process. A Sub-committee of the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) has been set up by the Government to examine and suggest—

— measure for making sports and physical education, including yoga, an integral part of the learning process at all stages of education:

— incentive measures for both students and teachers to take up sports and physical education activities; and

— measures for developing low cost sports and physical education infrastructure in schools and colleges and its optimal utilisation.